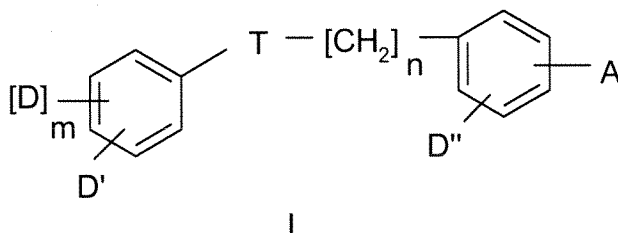


**IN THE CLAIMS:**

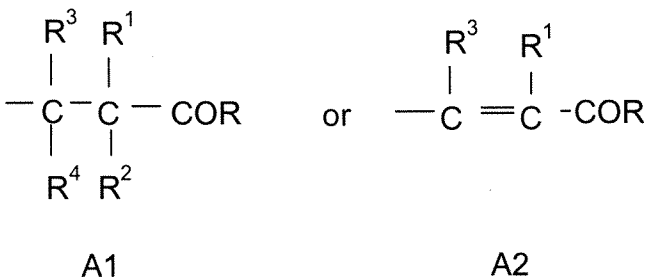
**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.**

**Listing of the claims:**

Claim 1 (**currently amended**): A compound of formula I



or a ~~and~~ pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salt-salts~~ thereof, in which  
A is situated in the para position and represents A1 or A2 below



wherein

R is hydrogen;

-OR<sup>a</sup>, wherein R<sup>a</sup> represents hydrogen, alkyl, aryl or alkylaryl;

-NR<sup>a</sup>R<sup>b</sup>, wherein R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>b</sup> are the same or different and R<sup>a</sup> is as defined above and R<sup>b</sup> represents hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, cyano, -OH, -Oalkyl, -Oaryl, -Oalkylaryl, -COR<sup>c</sup> or -SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>d</sup>, wherein R<sup>c</sup> represents hydrogen, alkyl, aryl or alkylaryl and R<sup>d</sup> represents alkyl, aryl or alkylaryl;

R<sup>1</sup> is alkyl, aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cyano;

-OR<sup>e</sup>, wherein R<sup>e</sup> is alkyl, acyl, aryl or alkylaryl;

-O-[CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>m</sub>-OR<sup>f</sup>, wherein R<sup>f</sup> represents hydrogen, alkyl, acyl, aryl or alkylaryl and m represents an integer 1-8;

-OCONR<sup>a</sup>R<sup>c</sup>, wherein R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>c</sup> are as defined above;

-SR<sup>d</sup>, wherein R<sup>d</sup> is as defined above;

-SOR<sup>d</sup>, wherein R<sup>d</sup> is as defined above;

-SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>d</sup>, wherein R<sup>d</sup> is as defined above;

-SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>a</sup>R<sup>f</sup>, wherein R<sup>f</sup> and R<sup>a</sup> are as defined above;

-SO<sub>2</sub>OR<sup>a</sup>, wherein R<sup>a</sup> is as defined above;

-COOR<sup>d</sup>, wherein R<sup>d</sup> is as defined above;

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, or alkylaryl; ~~alkylaryl~~,

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are the same or different and each represents hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, or alkylaryl;

~~alkylaryl~~,

n is an integer 1-6; ~~1-6~~,

m is an integer 0 or 1;

D is situated in the ortho, meta or para position and represents

alkyl, acyl, aryl, alkylaryl, halogen, -CN and NO<sub>2</sub>, wherein the alkyl, aryl, or alkylaryl group is optionally substituted by R<sup>b</sup>;

-NR<sup>c</sup>COOR<sup>a</sup>, wherein R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>a</sup> are as defined above;

-NR<sup>c</sup>COR<sup>a</sup>, wherein R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>a</sup> are as defined above;

-NR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>a</sup>, wherein R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>a</sup> are as defined above;

-NR<sup>c</sup>SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>d</sup>, wherein R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>d</sup> are as defined above;

-NR<sup>c</sup>CONR<sup>k</sup>R<sup>c</sup>, wherein R<sup>a</sup>, R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>k</sup> are as defined above;

-NR<sup>c</sup>CSNR<sup>a</sup>R<sup>k</sup>, wherein R<sup>a</sup>, R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>k</sup> are as defined above;

-OR<sup>a</sup>, wherein R<sup>a</sup> is as defined above;

-OSO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>d</sup>, wherein R<sup>d</sup> is as defined above;

-SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>d</sup>, wherein R<sup>d</sup> is as defined above;

-SOR<sup>d</sup>, wherein R<sup>d</sup> is as defined above;

-SR<sup>c</sup>, wherein R<sup>c</sup> is as defined above;

-SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>a</sup>R<sup>f</sup>, wherein R<sup>f</sup> and R<sup>a</sup> are as defined above;

-SO<sub>2</sub>OR<sup>a</sup>, wherein R<sup>a</sup> is as defined above;

-CONR<sup>c</sup>R<sup>a</sup>, wherein R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>a</sup> are as defined above;

-OCONR<sup>f</sup>R<sup>a</sup>, wherein R<sup>f</sup> and R<sup>a</sup> are as defined above;

D' is situated in the ortho, meta or para position and represents

hydrogen, alkyl, acyl, aryl, alkylaryl, halogen, -CN, ~~-NO<sub>2</sub>~~, ~~-NO<sub>2</sub>~~;

-NR<sup>f</sup>R<sup>b</sup>, wherein R<sup>f</sup> and R<sup>b</sup> are as defined above;

-OR<sup>f</sup>, wherein R<sup>f</sup> is as defined above;

-OSO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>d</sup>, wherein R<sup>d</sup> is as defined above;

D'' is situated in the ortho, meta or para position and represents

hydrogen, alkyl, acyl, aryl, alkylaryl, halogen, -CN, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -NR<sup>f</sup>R<sup>b</sup> wherein R<sup>f</sup> and R<sup>b</sup> are as defined above;

-OR<sup>f</sup>, wherein R<sup>f</sup> is as defined above; ~~above~~.

-OSO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>d</sup>, wherein R<sup>d</sup> is as defined above; ~~above~~

and T represents O, S or NR<sup>t</sup> wherein R<sup>t</sup> represents alkyl or alkylaryl provided that when A is

A1 and R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> each represent hydrogen and R<sup>1</sup> is OR<sup>e</sup> wherein R<sup>e</sup> is as previously defined then T is not O;

wherein the term "aryl" denotes a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, furyl, thienyl or pyridyl group, or a fused ring system of any of these groups;

wherein the term "alkyl" denotes a straight or branched, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms and wherein the term "substituted" denotes substitution by one or more alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, thiol, nitro, hydroxy, acyl, aryl or cyano groups or an amino group optionally substituted by one or two alkyl groups:

with a first proviso that when D is CH<sub>3</sub>S(O)<sub>2</sub>O and m is 1 and D' is H and T is O and n=2 and A is a group CH<sub>2</sub>CH(SCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ph)COR<sup>x</sup> in which the phenyl is substituted in the 4 position by

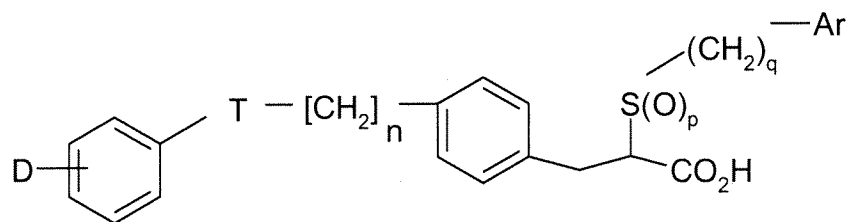
OH, Cl or F and in which  $R^x$  represents OH, or a protecting group for a carboxylic hydroxy group including an ethoxy or benzyloxy then  $D''$  is not H;  
 and with a second proviso that when m is 1 and D is  $CH_3S(O)_2O$  and  $D'$  is H and T is O, S or NR and wherein R represents a H, a  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group or a phenyl  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group and  $n=2$  and A is a group  $CH_2CH(OC_2H_5)COR^x$  in which  $R^x$  represents OH, or a protecting group for a carboxylic hydroxy group including a  $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy group or benzyloxy then  $D''$  is not H.

Claim 2 (**currently amended**): The A-compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 in which

A represents a group of formula  $-CH_2-CH(CO_2H)-S(O)_p-(CH_2)_q-Ar$  wherein p is 0, 1 or 2; q is 1, 2, 3 or 4; and

Ar is phenyl or thienyl each of which is optionally substituted by one or more hydroxy,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy, halogen, cyano or an amino group optionally substituted by one or two alkyl groups.

Claim 3 (**currently amended**): The A-compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 represented by formula IA



IA

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in which

D represents  $C_{1-6}$ alkylsulfonyloxy, aroyl, or a  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group;

T represents O, S or  $NR^t$  wherein  $R^t$  represents alkyl or alkylaryl;

n is 1, 2 or 3;

p is 0, 1 or 2;

q is 1 or 2; and

Ar is phenyl or thienyl each of which is optionally substituted by hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy, halogen, cyano or an amino group optionally substituted by one or two alkyl groups and wherein the group containing the carboxylic acid group is attached to the phenyl ring meta or para to the group (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-T-.

Claim 4 (**currently amended**): A compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 selected from ~~one or more of the following~~:

- 2-[(4-cyanobenzyl)thio]-3-[4-(2-{4-[(methylsulfonyl)oxy]phenoxy}ethyl)-phenyl]propanoic acid;
- 2-({2-[4-(dimethylamino)phenyl]ethyl}thio)-3-[4-(2-{4-[(methylsulfonyl)oxy]phenoxy}-ethyl)phenyl]propanoic acid;
- 3-[4-(2-{4-[(methylsulfonyl)oxy]phenoxy}ethyl)phenyl]-2-{[2-(2-thienyl)ethyl]thio}-propanoic acid;
- 2-{[2-(2-fluorophenyl)ethyl]thio}-3-[4-(2-{4-[(methylsulfonyl)oxy]phenoxy}-ethyl)phenyl]-propanoic acid;
- 2-{[2-(3-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]thio}-3-[4-(2-{4-[(methylsulfonyl)oxy]phenoxy}-ethyl)phenyl]propanoic acid;
- 2-{[2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]sulfinyl}-3-[4-(2-{4-[(methylsulfonyl)oxy]phenoxy}-ethyl)phenyl]propanoic acid;
- 3-{4-[2-(4-benzoylphenoxy)ethyl]phenyl}-2-{[2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]thio}propanoic acid;
- methyl 2-({2-[4-(benzyloxy)phenyl]ethyl}thio)-3-{4-[2-(2-propylphenoxy)ethyl]phenyl}-propanoate;
- 2-{[2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]thio}-3-{4-[2-(2-propylphenoxy)ethyl]phenyl}propanoic acid;
- 2-{[2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]thio}-3-[3-(2-{4-[(methylsulfonyl)oxy]phenoxy}-ethyl)phenyl]propanoic acid;
- 3-{4-[2-(2-benzyl-4-methanesulfonyloxyphenoxy)ethyl]phenyl}-2-[2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-ethylsulfonyl]propionic acid; and
- 2-[2-(4-tert-butoxy-phenyl)ethylsulfonyl]-3-{4-[2-(4-methanesulfonyloxyphenoxy)ethyl]-phenyl}propionic acid; ~~acid~~

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 5 (**currently amended**): A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 in admixture with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants, diluents and/or carriers.

Claim 6 (**cancelled**).

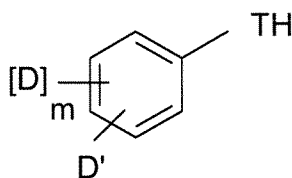
Claim 7 (**currently amended; withdrawn**): A method of treating or preventing lipid disorders (dyslipidemia) whether or not associated with insulin resistance comprising the administration of a compound according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ to a mammal in need thereof.

Claim 8 (**cancelled**).

Claim 9 (**currently amended; withdrawn**): A method of treating or preventing type 2 diabetes comprising the administration of an effective amount of a compound of formula I according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ to a mammal in need thereof.

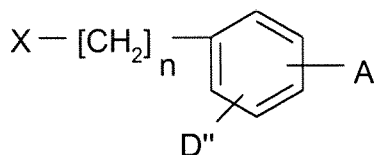
Claim 10 (**currently amended**): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 combined with another therapeutic agent that is useful in the treatment of a disorder ~~disorders~~ associated with the development and progress of atherosclerosis ~~such as hypertension, hyperlipidaemias, dyslipidaemias, diabetes and obesity.~~

Claim 11 (**currently amended; withdrawn**): A process for preparing a compound of formula I as claimed in claim 1 by reacting a compound of formula II



II

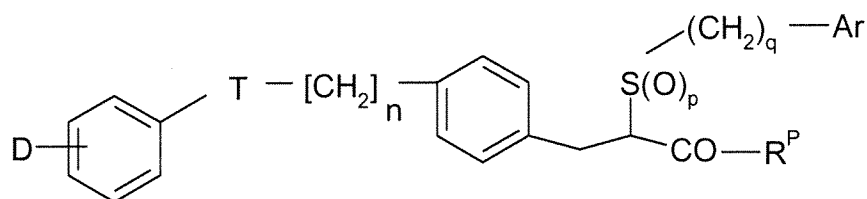
in which D, m, D' and T are as previously defined with a compound of formula III



III

in which n, A and D'' are as previously defined and X is a leaving group, for example halo or methanesulphonyloxy at a temperature in the range of 0-150°C optionally in the presence of an inert solvent.

Claim 12 (**currently amended; withdrawn**): A process for preparing a compound to ~~prepare a compound~~ of formula IA as claimed in claim 3-claim 3 by reacting a compound of formula IB



IB

in which D, T, n, p, q and Ar are as previously defined and R<sup>P</sup> represents a protecting group for a carboxylic hydroxy group with a de-protecting agent.

Claim 13 (**new**): The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 10 wherein the other therapeutic agent is one that is useful in the treatment of a disorder selected from hypertension, hyperlipidaemias, dyslipidaemias, diabetes and obesity.